

*Lia
Legal Sec.
(Memo of Law)*

Executive for A&H
THRU: General Counsel
Chief, Budget and Finance Branch

17 March 1948

OGC Has Reviewed
Ventilation in "Que" and "K" Buildings

1. It does not appear possible to effect payment for the installation of air-conditioning equipment or additional electric fans in the rooms of "Que" and "K" Buildings under existing law and regulations.

STATINTL

2. Paragraph 2 of [REDACTED] memorandum is concurred in by this office with the exception that we are of the definite opinion that the Director should not approve an expenditure of this nature under his presumptive authority to certify payments without itemization since it is definitely contrary to the Act of October 26, 1942, and in any event any procurement or installations in this category would not remain the property of CIA but would revert to PBA under existing law.

STATINTL

[REDACTED]

1. Concur with the statement of the Chief, Budget and Finance Branch above. The authority of the Director to certify to expenditures without revealing their nature has been given to provide secure financial support to the authorized operations of CIA, the confidential nature of which prevents release of information outside the Agency.

2. We feel it appropriate in this connection to point out the support given by the Comptroller General to our proposed legislation and to our operations in the past. We feel this support is largely due to the confidence that office has in the Director's administration of unvouchered funds, and we feel that this confidence is essential to the future of the Agency. If the Public Buildings Administration cannot supply adequate equipment, the only recourse would be to ask Congress for a specific appropriation to enable CIA or PBA to air-condition the buildings in question.

LAWRENCE R. HOUSTON